(*b*) how many of them are in Tirunelveli district?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) 1080.
" (*b*) None."

Strike in Madurai Mills.

* 1569 *Q*.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that on 14th January 1955 about 1,500 workers working in Madura Mills, Madura, were forcibly ejected by the Police from the mills ; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) No worker was ejected by the Police from the Mills on 14th January 1955. The facts are that on 14th January 1955, more than one thousand workers staged a stay-in-strike inside the Madurai Mills, Madurai. They continued to stay inside the mills on the next day also. On the night of 15th January 1955, the Collector, and the District Superintendent of Police of Madurai, and the Deputy Inspector-General of Police with other police officers, who were present in the mills to maintain law and order apprehended serious disorder and so persuaded the workers to disperse. The persuasions proving of no use, at about 1-15 a.m. on 16th January 1955, the Collector declared them to be an unlawful assembly and commanded them under section 127, Cr.P.C., to disperse immediately. Four workers who were found instigating others to disobey the orders of the Collector were arrested. The rest dispersed peacefully and no force was used."

* 1570 *Q*.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state why the Police interfered with the workers of Harvey Mills, Madurai, during January 17th, 1955 and forced the workers who were going on a stay-in-strike peacefully and threatened them to clear out from the mill?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" There was no stay-in-strike in the Harvey Mills (also known as Madurai Mills), Madurai, on the 17th January 1955. But there was a stay-in-strike in the Mills from 13th to 15th January 1955. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer to question No. 1569 (starred) by Sri K. P. Gopalan, M.L.A."

* 1571 *Q*.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state how many workers working in Madura Mills, Madura, were arrested by the Police on 14th January 1955 in a labour dispute between the management and workers?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No arrest was made on 14th January 1955, but four workers of the Madurai Mills were arrested on the night of 15th and 16th January 1955."